

Dear Padre,

*I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?*

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church. It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Goto DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

Monday

July 27  
Weekday  
Jer 13:1-11  
Mt 13:31-35  
Tuesday  
July 28  
Weekday  
Jer 14:17-22  
Mt 13:36-43  
Wednesday  
July 29  
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus  
Jer 15:10, 16-21  
Jn 11:19-27 or  
Lk 10:38-42

Thursday

July 30  
Weekday  
Jer 18:1-6  
Mt 13:47-53  
Friday  
July 31  
St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest  
Jer 26:1-9  
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 1  
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Jer 26:11-16, 24  
Mt 14:1-12  
Sunday  
August 2  
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 55:1-3  
Rom 8:35, 37-39  
Mt 14:13-21



BOGDAN SONJACHNU / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 26, 2026  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



[Solomon said to the Lord,]  
"Give your servant, therefore,  
a listening heart to judge your  
people and to distinguish  
between good and evil."

1 KINGS 3:9

What Image of the Kingdom Will You Serve Up?

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of

Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God already reigning in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like "the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ●

Reflect

What image of God's kingdom would you offer people of the twenty-first century?



LEARN ABOUT

OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

HTWE / SHUTTERSTOCK



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**Online Giving** is here. Scan the QR Code in this bulletin or visit [www.stpetercarthage.com](http://www.stpetercarthage.com) to access the Online Giving tab. Questions can be directed to Ann Catalano 615-683-9587

### **St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church**

208 Upper Ferry Rd. Carthage, TN

[www.stpetercarthage.com](http://www.stpetercarthage.com)

Instagram: @stpetercarthage

Facebook: St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

#### **Mass Schedule:**

Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.

**Confessions:** Please know that confessions are available anytime by appointment and Saturdays prior to Mass.

**Hall Improvement:** Thanks to your generosity, we are in the process of removing right outer wall and stairwell walls due to lack of insulation and water barrier. We will finish the insulation project which was started earlier, move electrical outlets and switch boxes, apply two coats of primer, paint AND much, much, much more. Bless You.

**Help Needed:** We need assistance in taking a turn to clean our church. If we get additional help, one's turn would not come up as often. If you can help us with this rewarding ministry, call Olga at 615-418-6607

**Thank You:** Bless you for your on-going generosity. Thanks to your stewardship efforts, we were able to pay Catholic Mutual \$6,737 for our annual premium which includes: special multi-peril, property and liability.

**Last Week Collections:** \$2,222.54 - Building - \$250 - Bless you for caring and sharing in the fruit of your labors. We pledge to be the best of stewards with the fruit of your generosity.

**Scripture Study:** Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. the Scripture for the upcoming weekend will be studied and enhance your experience of Mass. Thank you Knights of Columbus for starting this for our community.

**Finance Committee...** is working on our annual report and budget. We will publish them when they become available.

**Pastor's Desk:** Thanks to all the folks who volunteer their labors of love by cleaning our church, mowing our huge lawn, and embracing many volunteer opportunities. Your sweat equity efforts demonstrate that you perceive "church" to be a privilege, and not a convenience. Well Done! /// Let's all remember to keep God in our summer plans and travels. – Representatives from Catholic Mutual Insurance will be on campus this week to assess our physical plant and provide tips to enhance our safety. Thanks for your efforts to keep our physical plant safe. /// Participate also in weekday Masses.

**Pastoral Council:** meets Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.